

THOMAS JENKINS PEARSALL, student of this university from 1923 to 1927, lawyer, legislator, business executive, philanthropist, and public-spirited citizen, has aided immeasurably in the recent growth and development of the University of North Carolina by his tireless efforts and imaginative statesmanship as a member of the Board of Trustees since 1941 and of its Executive Committee since 1948. Working courageously and tactfully on the grave problems, both external and internal, which have faced the university in recent years, he has brought vigorous leadership and vision to their solution: he furnished indispensable help in preparing and securing the enactment of legislation defining the relationship of the University to the Board of Higher Education; he assisted effectively in the adoption of the sound and humane code of academic freedom now in force; and he has constantly worked for adequate financial support for the university.

Former Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, member of the Advisory Budget Commission, leader in the movement for agricultural and industrial progress in Eastern North Carolina, chairman of the Trustees' Building Committee of the North Carolina Wesleyan College at Rocky Mount, and servant of the people of North Carolina in many other capacities, Mr. Pearsall has brought to all of his varied responsibilities a statesmanlike wisdom and a humane sense of justice.

In recognition of these qualities of leadership, the University is delighted to confer on him the degree of Doctor of Laws.